

# Local Government Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Program

*Colorado Department of Local Affairs*

*Strengthening Colorado Communities*



# DOLA Commits to:

- Responsiveness/Adaptability
- Accountability
- Transparency

# Opportunities for Improvement

- Advisory Committee
  - Duties
  - Make-up
- Revision of Criteria
  - Categories of Grants
  - Match Requirements
- Hearings
- Reporting

# Advisory Committee – Make-up

- Add two additional representatives to ensure a quorum and add depth to policy discussions
- Add representative from Department of Public Health and Environment, remove representative from Department of Education
- Senate confirmation of gubernatorial appointments

# Advisory Committee - Duties

- Use as a policy body
- Convene immediately to advise on changes and develop timeline
  - Programmatic changes to be phased in
- Develop criteria for small, large scale and standard grant programs
- Review standard and large scale projects

# Advisory Committee – Statutory Changes

- Modify advisory committee membership
  - Increase citizen members from five to seven
  - Senate confirmation
  - Add Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
  - Remove Commissioner of Education
- Reference this advisory committee in the Local Government Severance Tax Fund statute

# Revision of Criteria

- Yearly qualification of communities based on impact metrics
- Quantify criteria, develop an objective scoring system
- Validate by advisory committee

# Three Categories of Grants

- Small
- Large Scale
- Standard



# Small Grants Program

- Up to \$200,000
- Approval by administrative review
- Criteria developed by advisory committee
- Types of Projects
  - Planning (Help communities develop frameworks for investment in infrastructure before, during and after production)
  - Small capital projects
  - Studies (e.g., engineering, design)

# Large Scale Grant Program

- One cycle per year
- Multi-million dollar projects (up to \$10-\$15 million in size)
- Expect regional/multi-jurisdictional focus
- Use criteria developed by advisory committee

# Standard Grant Program

- Two cycles per year
- \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 grants
- Flexible match requirements

# Match

- Change match requirements to better reflect reality of local government financial conditions
- Relax or eliminate cash match for immediate, direct needs in heavily impacted areas (e.g., roads)

# Hearings

- Allow/encourage community presentations via videoconference to save time and money for local officials
- Conduct hearings in centralized locations

# Reporting

- Present results of the grant program yearly to the General Assembly in a hearing (summarize annual report)
- Submit annual report to the State Auditor's Office (likely a statutory change)
- Standardized forms, provide monitoring instruments

# Timeline

## (Changes to be Phased-In)

- Convene Advisory Committee – Nov/Dec 2007
- Conduct Statewide Hearings – Feb/March 2008
- Consider additional improvements suggested at hearings – April 2008
- Roll-out small grants program - June 2008
- Fully implement all program changes - March 2009

# In Summary

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